

Weare Open Space Committee

Minutes

December 14, 2004

Those in attendance were: Mike and Sandy Boyko, Pat Myers, Jude Desmarais, Steve Najjar, and John Ciampi.

Steve called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Review of Minutes – The members reviewed the minutes of November 30. Since there were no modifications to be made, Mike made motion to accept the minutes as written, and Sandy 2nd. All voted in favor to accept, and the motion carried.

Bolton Property Status – Some of the more prominent issues brought up this evening relating to this topic include:

- Research to acquire this property is currently in progress.
- The designated appraiser is Scott Heath.
- The BOS have not acknowledged their position, to date, on this matter.
- Steve will maintain communication between the BOS and Chuck Bolton.
- The Committee is endeavoring to become familiar with the tax abatement regs.

Some discussion took place among the members. Pat: “We could contact the lawyer who worked on the Wood property because he would be more knowledgeable in these matters”. Steve: “Would we need to appropriate funds for this?” Pat: “It shouldn’t be too steep”. Steve: “The BOS may not approve of hiring an outside attorney, and they may advise us to use their own counsel”. Pat: “We tried retaining an attorney not familiar with easement acquisitions with the Wood property, and it was a bad experience”. Steve: “Someone needs to speak with Margaret Watkins concerning the streams on the property of which she may have an associated interest”. Pat: “PWA has an OSC to determine if a particular property is worth pursuing. Their next meeting is slated sometime in January. Steve: “Let’s try to get on their agenda and see if we can interact with them more”.

Educational Forum Status – Andrea spoke with Digit Taylor of the Forest Society about lining up speakers for the forum, and she discovered that there is a \$150.00 fee involved, which, contingent upon the decision of the WCC, can be apportioned from the Conservation Fund. At this point, Pat made motion to appropriate the \$150.00 from the Conservation Fund for use by the WOSC. Mike 2nd, all voted in the affirmative, and the motion carried. Steve mentioned that the Forum should have a biodiversity speaker, possibly someone from Fish and Game, the Forest Society, or the County Coop Extension. Sandy suggested that the Forum should have a name, but to date, no name has been chosen. Mike and Sandy Boyko are heading up the effort to contact the media, including the Goffstown News, the Weare Free Press, and Channel 6. Final scheduling of the advertising date would be dependent upon the availability of the speakers.

Warrant Article Status – These proposed articles need to be approved by the WCC, and the results of that approval forwarded to Bob Christiansen. If the articles are not approved by the BOS, then they must be submitted by petition. Bobby Reeves, town forest manager, should be contacted concerning dipping into the Town Forest Account. The WOSC would like to open more dialogue with Mr. Reeve in the future. Some of the discussion that ensued; Mike: “Should we go to the Finance Committee and get their take on this?” Pat: “We should ask John Dowst about that since he is already a member of the Finance Committee. Steve: “We need to decide what to do if the BOS don’t support these articles. I believe the next Selectmen’s meeting is slated for 12/20”.

General Discussion – Some discussion was tossed around concerning how to go about purchasing property in the future. Mike: “We need some mechanism for finding out if someone has land available, especially if it’s remotely situated on a back road”. Steve: “We could set up an e-mail address with a realtor under an alias”.

Adjournment- Mike made motion to adjourn, and Pat 2nd. All voted in the affirmative. With no more business to entertain, Steve adjourned the meeting at 8:30PM.

Next meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2005.

Duly recorded as a true record,

John Ciampi

cc: BOS
WCC files
Town Clerk
Tina Pelletier